



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## MIDDLE EAST

# Partnering with Youth

2009



*A group of Peace Scholars participates in team-building activities. USAID offers 30 scholarships annually for one year of undergraduate study in the United States. Scholarships are complemented by leadership training in diversity and intercultural understanding. (Photo: USAID/OMEF)*

### EXAMPLES OF OUR IMPACT

- USAID has built a regional network of more than 3,000 young community leaders.
- An estimated 7,000 students have benefited from USAID-sponsored life skills classes.
- In West Bank and Gaza, 300 youth centers have been developed, 2,200 youth have become civic leaders, and over 86,000 hours of training have been provided to youth.
- More than 920 Egyptian students are receiving undergraduate or graduate degrees at U.S. universities and colleges and the American University of Cairo.

### OVERVIEW

The Middle East and North Africa are facing a demographic shift. More than half of the region's population is under the age of 24, and more than one-quarter of its young people are unemployed. This youth bulge is both an opportunity and a challenge. USAID invests in youth, so that they will have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success.

### NEW PROGRAMS

Because of the important role that youth play in the region's development, USAID has reached out to youth organizations. USAID has listened to their concerns and dreams, and has used these voices in designing new approaches to supporting development in the Middle East.

Examples of these innovative approaches include:

- **YouthWork Jordan:** USAID is collaborating with the Government of Jordan, the private sector, and NGO partners to improve social services and protection for vulnerable young people, ages 15-24 years. The program will equip these youth with the necessary skills to find employment, become active and positive agents of change within their communities, and access youth-friendly public services that respond to their needs.
- **Morocco Youth Education Project:** USAID is helping the Moroccan government and NGOs improve their ability to provide quality education services for out-of-school youth, ages 15-24 years. This involves developing policies that help these organizations coordinate and deliver education services. USAID also helps these groups build networks to strengthen youth support services.
- **Middle East Youth Media Initiative:** USAID is collaborating with Al Karma Edutainment to produce an educational television drama – *The University* – for broadcast via regional satellite in summer 2010. Created by and for Arabs, the program focuses on issues central to young people's lives.
- **Serious Games:** USAID is creating a partnership aimed at using games and new media as tools for strengthening young people's civic and life skills throughout the Middle East. The project will be a collaboration with other donors, foundations, and the private sector, including mobile phone and video game companies.

For more information go to: [www.usaid.gov/locations/middle\\_east](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/middle_east)